

Message Text

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12
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 DLOS-06 EB-07 SAL-01 IO-13 EUR-12 /104 W
----- 018611

R 170815Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6000
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
USINT BAGHDAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 3898

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, KU, IZ, PLOS
SUBJECT: GULF FOREIGN MINISTER'S CONFERENCE: AGENDA AND
PARTICIPATION

REF: (A) DOHA 830, (B) DOHA 657

1. DIRECTOR OF KUWAIT FONMIN LEGAL DEPARTMENT, RUZOUQI, TOLD
EMBOFFS AUGUST 16 THAT AS FAR AS HE KNEW, AUGUST 21 CONFERENCE
OF GULF FONMINS IN OMAN WOULD TAKE PLACE. IRAQ WOULD NOT ATTEND,
HOWEVER, BECAUSE IT OPPOSES THE APPROACH TAKEN IN THE WORKING
PAPER PREPARED BY KUWAIT (AS ORGANIZER OF THE CONFERENCE) ON THE
ISSUE OF GULF SECURITY. RUZOUQI SAID THAT FOR IRAQ GULF SECURITY
MEANS NOTHING MORE THAN ASSURANCE OF "FREE NAVIGATION" IN GULF AND
STRAIT OF HORMUZ, WHILE KUWAITI WORKING PAPER ENVISIONS THE SETTLE-
MENT OF NUMEROUS BILATERAL GULF TERRITORIAL AND LAW OF SEA ISSUES
CONCURRENTLY, AS BASIS FOR A LATER REGIONAL AGREEMENT ON GULF
SECURITY. RUZOUQI SAID IRAQ OPPOSES THIS APPROACH, SINCE IT IS
NOT WILLING TO SETTLE ITS BORDER DISPUTE WITH KUWAIT, NOR DOES IT
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APPEAR WILLING TO MOVE TOWARD SOLUTION OF OUTSTANDING IRAQI-

IRANIAN ISSUES INVOLVING SECURITY OF THEIR MUTUAL BORDER.

2. RUZOUQI EXPRESSED SATISFACTION, HOWEVER, THAT IRAN WILL BE REPRESENTED AT GULF CONFERENCE, SINCE A QUESTION OF KEY IMPORTANCE WHICH KUWAITIS WANT TO DISCUSS IS IRANIAN POSITION (AND THAT OF OMAN) REGARDING PASSAGE THROUGH STRAIT OF HORMUZ. HE NOTED THAT IRAN AND IRAQ HAVE BASIC DIFFERENCES ON THIS--IRAQ FAVORS "FREE NAVIGATION" FOR ALL SHIPS IN ORDER TO ALLOW SOVIETS MAXIMUM ACCESS, WHILE IRAN WANTS "INNOCENT PASSAGE" ONLY.

3. RUZOUQI EMPHASIZED THE NUMEROUS TERRITORIAL AND OTHER DISPUTES BETWEEN GULF STATES WHICH REQUIRE SETTLEMENT--KUWAIT/IRAQ; SAUDI ARABIA/IRAQ; UAE/SAUDI ARABIA; AND IRAN/IRAQ. HE SAID THAT CONSENSUS OF GULF STATES APPEARS TO SUPPORT KUWAITI POSITION THAT SOLUTION OF THESE BILATERAL DISPUTES IS PREREQUISITE TO ANY MULTI-LATERAL AGREEMENT ON GULF SECURITY. KUWAIT HAD AVOIDED PUSHING IN DIRECTION OF SUCH OVERALL AGREEMENT UNTIL IRAQ AND IRAN HAD SETTLED THEIR MAJOR DIFFERENCES. NOW THAT THERE APPEARED TO BE NO IMMEDIATE PROSPECT FOR FUTURE IMPROVEMENT ON OUTSTANDING IRANIAN-IRAQ BILATERAL ISSUES, THERE WAS NEW CONSENSUS THAT KUWAIT AND OTHERS SHOULD MOVE AHEAD WITH CONSIDERATION OF OTHER GULF SECURITY ISSUES ON REGIONAL BASIS, EVEN WITHOUT IRAQI CONCURRENCE OR ATTENDANCE AT CONFERENCE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETING AGENDA, INNOCENT PASSAGE, MINISTERIAL MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ellisoob
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976KUWAIT03898
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760315-0167
From: KUWAIT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760847/aaaabopr.tel
Line Count: 85
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 DOHA 830, 76 DOHA 657
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ellisoob
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 JUN 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <07 OCT 2004 by ellisoob>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GULF FOREIGN MINISTER'S CONFERENCE: AGENDA AND PARTICIPATION
TAGS: PFOR, PLOS, KU, IZ
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006